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NOTES FROM LOCAL BRANCHES

Among interesting letters received from chairmen of local branches, the following may be quoted:

I am sorry that I cannot participate in the meetings for I heartily believe that the Association is developing a usefulness to the professorial group which will yield positive results. A mention of the salary question seems at once to suggest a materialistic view of the usefulness just mentioned; but those of us in administrative positions cannot possibly avoid the fact that if the "poverty line" for men of faculty positions is that below which they cannot live in the way that the public reasonably expects them to live, then the time has come when the present salaries in endowed institutions are below that level. No amount of contemplation of the freedom of selection of work, the possibility of summer relaxation, or of the prestige of our position can cover up the disturbing sight of unpaid grocery bills. This is only one of many lines along which we might hope for improvement, but it is pretty close to the bread and butter line at present. It also hits directly at productive scholarship, for it means pot-boiling instead of research.

The branch has met very frequently of late, discussing, among other things, the Carnegie Foundation, its past record and present proposals; at considerable length the proper or most satisfactory division of the year into terms, assuming that the University is to be in session the entire year, salaries and future of the teaching profession. The branch adopted the following resolution at its meeting on December 20, for the guidance of our delegate to the Baltimore meeting; "that it is the sense of the branch that the qualifications for membership in the Association should be made less restrictive." Mr. gave the branch a most interesting account of the Baltimore meeting. He came back I think with renewed confidence in the possibilities of the Association.

At the meeting of the Association it was suggested by the representative of a local branch that there be a standing committee on local branches to promote greater activity among them. Such a committee existed three years ago, but did not develop very much activity itself. It seems to the officers that something might be

accomplished in this direction if officers of local branches which are active would make it a point to send brief reports of their operations for publication in the BULLETIN.

A circular letter has been sent to every local branch suggesting that steps be taken to delay action by governing boards on the question of accepting the new plan of the Carnegie Foundation for Pensions and Annuities until the report of Committee P should become available. Advance copies for distribution to trustees and others have been mailed to officers of local branches (February 13).